

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 8-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wong et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,120,803). In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite limitations related to blood plasma profile. The '803 patent does not teach, recite, or disclose the new limitations. For example, Claim 1 as amended claims an AUC_{0-inf} of greater than approximately 500.0 ng·hr/ml. In contrast, the '803 patent discloses an AUC only for ganciclovir (an antiviral drug). This disclosed AUC is 157.7 $\mu\text{m/ml hr}$ (Col. 24, lines 41-65). Aside from the fact that nanograms and micrograms differ by a magnitude of 1000, teaching an AUC for an antiviral drug does not anticipate an AUC for an aminoketone antidepressant. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of this ground of rejection in light of the amendments to Claim 1.

It should be noted that the amendments to Claim 1 do not represent new matter. The phrase “a C_{max} of at least 50.0 ng/ml” finds support in the specification as originally filed at, *inter alia*, page 21, line 8 (Table 3, Example 1) and page 25, line 18 (Table 4, Example 3).

The phrase “an AUC_{0-inf} of greater than approximately 500.0 ng·hr/ml” finds support in the specification as originally filed at, *inter alia*, page 21, line 9 (Table 3, Example 1) and page 25, line 19 (Table 4, Example 3).

The phrase “a T_{max} of between approximately 5.0 hours and 8.5 hours” finds support in the specification as originally filed at, *inter alia*, page 21, line 11 (Table 3, Example 1) and page 25, line 21 (Table 4, Example 3).

The Examiner then noted that Applicants' arguments, filed September 12, 2006, were persuasive. In view of those arguments, the Examiner withdrew the prior rejection to Claims 1-6 and 8-22. Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejection.

Applicants also have amended the specification of the present application to correctly recite the continuity data.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present invention are in proper form for allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are therefore respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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